

✓ Feedback from voters sought on election districts

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Members of the House and Senate Governmental Affairs committees will hit the road this week, gathering input from voters on how election districts for Congress, the Legislature and other elective bodies should be drawn. With new census figures in hand, the House panel will meet at the State Capitol at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, followed by the Senate panel at 3:30 p.m. to discuss the data and the population gains and losses in legislative, congressional, Public Service Commission, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and state Supreme Court and courts of appeal districts. The two

committees then will take it on the road to get feedback from voters. The first meetings will be held in the New Orleans area Thursday. The first is 10 a.m. at the Fuhrmann Auditorium at the Greater Covington Center, 317 N. Jefferson St., Covington; the second is in New Orleans at 6 p.m. in Georges Auditorium, Room 115, in the Professional Schools and Sciences Building at Dillard University, 2601 Gentilly Blvd. "It is important for the public to participate in these meetings and make their opinions known, so that the committees may consider public input as plans are drafted and discussed," House spokeswoman **Shella McCant** said. To allow for maximum participation, the meetings will be streamed live over the Internet and archived. Rep. **Rick Gallot**, D-Grambling, chairman of the House panel, said that comments and questions can be submitted to the panel via Facebook, Twitter, MySpace and other social media sites. Information about the social media sites is available at http://house.louisiana.gov/H_Redistricting2011/. The site also contains up-to-date information on all aspects of reapportionment. The Legislature has called itself into a special redistricting session starting March 20 and going no later than April 13.